

FREIGHT MOBILITY STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 24, 2012
Yakima, WA

Board members present: Mr. Dan Gatchet, Chair; Mr. Mark Knudsen; Mr. Larry Paulson; Mr. Tom Trulove; Ms. Rebecca Francik; Mr. Dave Gossett; Mr. Brian Ziegler; Mr. Jim Albert; Mr. John Creighton; and Mr. Cliff Benson.

WELCOME: Chair Dan Gatchet opened the meeting introducing a presentation on Yakima Freight Issues.

YAKIMA FREIGHT ISSUES: Rick Plath of WA Food Produce located on River Road in Yakima opened the discussion describing the processes of transporting and storing the various crops in the Yakima Valley.

Al Brown, chair of TransAction and executive director of the Greenway Foundation, explained the TransAction organization and the broad based issues in the Yakima area by the organization.

Bob Degrossellier, City of Yakima, explained the connection with TransAction and the lower valley organization, DRIVE.

WELCOME: Chair Gatchet asked the Board members to introduce themselves to the two new Board members just appointed to FMSIB.

MINUTES: Mr. Larry Paulson moved and Mr. Brian Ziegler seconded the motion to adopt the March 16, 2012 minutes.

MOTION CARRIED

FMSIB BUDGET: Director Karen Schmidt reviewed the operating budget explaining the \$100,000 for the new employee will be reflected in the next budget review; the capital projects budget explaining that some of the projects on the list are completed, but not officially closed until the finances are complete; and the status of the UP account.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Schmidt introduced a video of the I-90 corridor produced by WSDOT for the Board viewing and stated the website will be emailed to the Board to check on what is happening with the I-90 project. The Director discussed the guidelines for the Board members on what they can and can't do as Board members during an election year. The Director discussed the presentation by Mr. Larry Paulson at the JTC meeting on June 20, 2012 in Vancouver, WA. Director Schmidt reviewed her meeting with OFM staff on proposed legislation; funding for the FMSIB new employee; and OFM representation on the Board. The Director reviewed the status on the D Street Ramps in Tacoma, the Argo Access project in Seattle, the 2012 annual report, and the WSDOT statewide freight plan.

Rail Capacity/NBA Stadium: Director Schmidt explained this issue will be covered under the project update section of the agenda.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS:

Chair Gatchet discussed representing FMSIB at the dedication of the E. Marginal Way Project; and updated the Board on the Administrative Committee progress on the new exempt staff position. Director Schmidt explained the process on categorizing a position as exempt. The Director stated that the Committee to consider this as a exempt position meets in August. Mr. Jim Albert explained the availability of exempt positions in state government and reinforced the importance of pursuing this as an exempt position.

Mr. Brian Ziegler represented FMSIB at the dedication of the Lincoln Avenue Project in Tacoma.

Mr. Ziegler discussed the proposed 2012 Call for Projects and the draft schedule. Mr. Ziegler moved and Mr. Dave Gossett seconded the motion to authorize a 2012 Call for Projects.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. John Creighton discussed the history of the Eastside Rail and updated the Board on the recent activities.

PSRC: Neither Mr. Cliff Benson nor Mr. Creighton were in attendance at the last meeting.

CENTURY AGENDA: Mr. Creighton and Mr. Tom Albro, Commissioners for the Port of Seattle, explained the Port's Century Agenda which is their plan for the next twenty-five years. Mr. Creighton opened the discussion and Mr. Albro showed and explained the video created by the Port. Both emphasized the importance of all the ports in Washington and the importance of the Port of Seattle relevance to the economies of the region.

TRADE COALITION: Mr. Gossett reviewed the packet of information distributed to the Board and explained the issue is whether FMSIB is interested in becoming a partner.

Mr. Andrew Wells explained the "Move Forward WA" program and stated that the international impact study would be out this summer. He gave an overview of the benefits of the program and discussed the goals of "Move Forward WA".

Chair Gatchet suggested the Board table the issue for this meeting and have more information for future discussions probably at the July meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES: Director Schmidt opened her review of FMSIB projects discussing the NBA Stadium and the Rail Capacity issues. The Director referenced a document listing issues for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Gossett moved and Mr. Knudsen seconded that the Director draft a letter to the Seattle City and King County councils as well as the Mayor of Seattle and the King County Executive on the issues of concern from the Board.

MOTION CARRIED

The Director provided a draft document on the commodity versus capacity issue. The Director stated that in discussions with communities such as Marysville, it is a capacity not a commodity issue.

Mr. Ziegler stated that the draft white paper is generic enough that the Board supports bulk export as a beneficial business in WA. It doesn't mention a project, doesn't mention any location or port.

Mr. Ziegler moved and Ms. Francik seconded the motion that the Board adopt a white paper titled FMSIB position on expansion of environmental review of freight and other projects and are concerned about that. The Director asked if this would be posted to the FMSIB website.

After Board discussion on various concerns on wording of the issues, the decision was made to continue working on finalizing a white paper to be posted on the FMSIB webpage once a consensus was reached on a final document.

Director Schmidt reviewed all the FMSIB projects in a PowerPoint presentation with an update on the status of each project with a recommendation for Board consideration. Mr. Ziegler moved and Mr. Gossett seconded the motion to adopt the project recommendations as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

PRESENTATION TO BOARD MEMBERS: Ms. Francik and Mr. Cliff Benson were honored for their service to the Board.

FUTURE MEETINGS: Mr. Paulson moved and Mr. Gossett seconded the motion for the next FMSIB Board meeting to be on July 20, 2012 with a Board workshop on July 19, 2012 at Suquamish, WA.

Chair Gatchet adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED



Dan Gatchet
Chair



Attest: Karen Schmidt
Executive Director